

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Even though my husband and I are somewhat conservative, we take a liberal view regarding media diversity as long as a media source does not undermine the sanctity of our United States codes and laws.

We despise the race between the centralized media powers to keep us uninformed and uninspired.

We are also sick to death of paying for official fun travel on top of the freebies by the media industry - everyone around us is out of work or afraid they will be out of work next. That travel money should be put into Social Security for upcoming seniors who truly deserve and need it. And extra money that corporations pay to persuade everyone important to do their bidding should be sent to Ohio or Michigan for highway improvement. Do you know how many tired workers have had to shell out hard-earned money for auto repairs due to bad roads? Money is tight enough.

Our retirement money is G-O-N-E - thanks to greedy corporations and mismanaged funds. We don't need even bigger corporate giants to go amiss and put the country out of business.

Thank you,

Jay and Becky Hollon

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